

ALL IS HARMONY

THE INDIAN TERRITORY DEMOCRATS MEET AT DURANT

NOTHING DONE WITH STATEHOOD MATTER

Delegates Are Uninstructed—Williams the Winner for National Committee—Twenty-four of the Twenty-five Recording Districts Represented

DURANT: There was a strikingly splendid article of harmony displayed at the territorial Democratic convention. It smacked nothing short of a party love feast, and warrants the assertion that the wounds received at Ardmore four years ago have thoroughly healed, and that the Democratic party of Indian Territory is again in splendid working order.

The executive session went into session at 8 o'clock in the morning to prepare the club rolls and select temporary officers. All went smooth until the Ada delegation was reached. There were contesting delegations from Ada, one known as the Dick faction, and championed by J. F. McKeel, and the other an anti-Dick faction, championed by W. H. L. Campbell and I. M. King. Each presented strong statements of the situation. After a session of over four hours the committee, in executive session, settled the difference by allowing each of the delegations half a vote.

The committee selected for the convention J. B. Thompson of Paul's Valley as temporary chairman; A. B. Cunningham of Tahlequah, temporary secretary, and J. D. Laukford of Atoka, assistant temporary secretary.

Owing to the time taken up by the executive committee the convention did not convene until 2:30 p. m.

Owing to the inability of Hon. J. J. McAlester, chairman of the executive committee, who was disabled recently, to preside, Hon. Clifford L. Jackson of Muskogee called the convention to order. Rev. J. M. Gross of Durant invoked the blessings of the Deity upon the convention. Mayor W. L. Bonner delivered the address of welcome on behalf of the city. D. Head delivered the address of welcome on behalf of the Jackson National Democrats of Durant. Hon. C. B. Stuart of South McAlester gave a response on behalf of the delegations.

The recommendation of the executive committee relative to the temporary officers was accepted without opposition. Dan J. Kendall of Sulphur was elected sergeant-at-arms. Three committees were selected: a committee on order of business, a committee on resolutions and a committee on credentials. Twenty-five compose each committee, a delegate from each of the twenty-five recording districts being chosen. The committees immediately went into executive session.

Hon. Thomas P. Gore, the blind orator and senator of Lawton, was called for and spoke to the assembly for thirty minutes. Senator Gore is an ardent supporter of the single statehood cause, and spoke along this line. He carried the assembly with him in his brilliant address.

The repeated applause and encores warrants the assertion that he spoke the sentiments of the large majority of the delegation and a vote of thanks was extended to him by the delegations for his speech. While it is believed that the delegation is in favor of single statehood, it is likely that no declaration will be made until statehood, a large portion of the delegation insisting that this is an inopportune time to resolve the measure. Champions of the single statehood cause are pushing the matter, however, and are

anxious that the convention go on record now.

Following Mr. Gore's speech the convention adjourned to meet at 8 p. m.

The convention was again called to order at 8:35 o'clock, with 3,000 people in attendance. The convention moved off slowly, owing to the delay of the committees.

The credentials committee unanimously agreed and recommended that the rolls of the executive committee be adopted except as to the Ada delegations. The committee recommended that the anti-Dick faction be allowed a seat in the convention. The report was adopted.

The committee on permanent organization and order of business recommended Benjamin F. LaFayette of Checotah for permanent secretary; W. R. Campbell, Claremore, permanent assistant secretary; Daniel J. Kendall, sergeant-at-arms. The committee also reported that six delegates be elected to the national convention at St. Louis; one delegate and one alternate from each of the four court districts and two at large. Upon motion the report was adopted.

The minority report favoring single statehood was defeated, single statehooders voting against it to preserve harmony.

L. M. Poe of Tulsa and H. J. Stanley of Purcell were elected delegates-at-large to St. Louis. Alternates are Ed M. McConkey of Peoria and S. M. Rutherford of Muskogee.

Delegates and alternates to St. Louis from court districts are: Central district, C. A. Skeen, Wapanucka; Tom Alnsowrth, McAlester; Southern, T. L. Wade of Marlow and J. T. Blanton of Paul's Valley; Northern, W. C. Rogers of Pryor Creek and Thomas J. Waite of Wagoner; Western, Roberts Reed of Holdenville and James M. Givens of Muskogee. The latter named in each district are alternates.

W. A. Ledbetter of Ardmore said in reference to the vote on the single statehood resolution in the convention that the defeat of the amendment did not signify that the territory does not want statehood with Oklahoma, but that a vote at this time would interfere with the trade for delegates made between the Halley and Williams factions.

THE MARSHAL SHOT WILD

In Attempting to Shoot Escaping Prisoner Two Men Were Wounded

DENISON, TEX.: Deputy United States Marshal Frank Jones accidentally shot and wounded two men at the Katy depot in Checotah, I. T.

He was at the depot awaiting the arrival of the northbound passenger train. He had under arrest a negro charged with peddling whisky. There was quite a crowd of people at the station. Shortly before the arrival of the train the negro prisoner made a break for liberty, starting down the platform and darting into the crowd. Marshal Jones drew his pistol and fired at the fleeing negro. Charles B. Williams, engineer, and J. E. Young, fireman on a Katy work train, were in direct line of the bullet. Williams was struck in the right ankle, the bullet passing through and entering the left leg of Young.

The wounded men were made as comfortable as possible until the arrival of the passenger train, on which they were taken to the company hospital at Sedalia. Both men reside in Denison and have been on duty on the Choctaw division.

Mr. Williams' injury is said to be serious, and it is feared that the leg will have to be amputated above the ankle. Young's injury is said to be slight.

What is probably the only bank in the United States owned, operated and officered entirely by negroes is the one in Muskogee, recently organized with a capital of \$50,000, three-fifths of which sum has been paid in by ten stockholders.

ROBBED OF LANDS

GOVERNOR McCURTAIN APPEALS TO THE DEPARTMENT

INDIANS ARE FLEECE BY THE CRAFTERS

One of the Boldest Schemes Ever Worked—Mississippi Choctaws Are Fleeced Going and Coming—Matter to be Taken Up by Officials

MUSKOGEE: Governor McCurtain of the Choctaw nation has appealed to the departments here to assist in suppressing what appears to be one of the boldest grafts in existence—a scheme by which the Mississippi Choctaws are being absolutely robbed of most of their lands, as well as the rentals therefrom. It is probable that the matter will be taken up by the officials at Washington.

From Governor McCurtain's statement, Choctaw Indians have been, during the last year, imported by grafters, who charged them half of their allotments to bring them to the territory, and compelled the ignorant Indians to give them a five-year lease on the entire allotments for the paltry sum of \$60 a year. As an inducement the grafters who have worked the scheme sent their agents to Mississippi soon after the government appropriated money to remove the Indians from that state. These agents falsify reports and get charge of many who were entitled to allotments.

The scheme, which, according to Governor McCurtain, these grafters worked, was both bold and unique. Their agents would tell the Indians of the rich allotments that were awaiting them in the territory, and convince them that the government had decided not to pay for their transportation. Then the offer to remove the Indian for half his allotment and the five-year lease would be advanced, and in most cases readily accepted. Where there was any hesitancy on the part of the desired allottee the agent would assure him that in addition to the land each Mississippi Choctaw would get \$1,000.

As soon as the victim was landed in the Choctaw country he would be sent to the land office to file upon a claim, and a contract would be entered into at once. This was not called to the attention of the authorities until recently, when some of the misled Indians, realizing that they had been cheated, became dissatisfied, and then began to complain. They soon realized that the land which they were leasing for \$60 a year was bringing at least \$2 an acre to the grafter who had worked them. The average allotment in the Choctaw country is 320 acres, and the fact that these Indians were allotted on the best land of the country meant a clear profit of several hundred dollars to the white men, besides an assurance of half the land when the title became clear and the restrictions are removed.

Governor McCurtain has a number of affidavits setting forth schemes similar to the one given above, and he has detectives still working on the matter. The affidavits contain the names of the persons who worked, and are still working, the graft. In some instances it is actually shown that the Indian was actually forced to pay the white men for the privilege of allotting and that in some cases the allottee is a hireling in the employ of the man who is robbing him. One affidavit states that the owner of the land was not even permitted to rent from his lessee, who, by the way, is a white woman, and that he was compelled to hire himself as a farm hand in order to support his wife and two small children.

The government appropriated \$20,000 a little more than a year ago for the removal of the Mississippi

LEGAL FIGHT OVER A TOWNSITE

Citizens of Boynton Ask Cancellation of Townsite Allotment

MUSKOGEE: The application of the citizens of Boynton, asking that cancellation of the allotment of Benjamin Grayson, deceased, upon which allotment the town is built, be annulled, was before the Dawes commission last week.

Boynton is situated about eighteen miles west of Muskogee, and has almost 1,500 inhabitants, and the facts in regard to the controversy about the site are as follows:

Some time since the allotment of Benjamin Grayson, deceased, was purchased by J. P. Finley, who represented the Boynton Townsite company. This purchase was made in behalf of the citizens, who intended to get their titles through the townsite company. It was afterward discovered that there were minor heirs of Benjamin Grayson, who have since set up a claim for the allotment.

It is the plan of the attorney who represents the heirs of the original allottee to have the restrictions to alienation removed so that the present owners of the lots and improvements may acquire title through these heirs. This action is being bitterly contested by the citizens of Boynton, on the ground that they would then be compelled to pay for their lots just what the heirs saw fit to charge.

What the present owners ask is that the land be segregated and platted as a government townsite, and they then expect to get the property at a fair valuation.

Both sides to the controversy have employed the best legal talent, and the case will be fought to the end.

The commission continued the hearing till Monday, July 11.

SYSTEM OF TAXATION

Dr. Jacob H. Hollander Will Investigate the Question in the Territory

ARDMORE: Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock has appointed Dr. Jacob H. Hollander, professor of political economy and financier at Johns Hopkins university, special agent on taxation in the Indian Territory to investigate the practicability of providing a system of taxation which will maintain the public schools and at the same time serve as a basis of a future general revenue system. The appointment was one of the results of the recent inspection of the public service in the territory. It is expected that Prof. Hollander will soon visit the different nations.

Secretary Hitchcock will probably recommend to congress legislation which will meet the requirements of the people regarding public schools. The special agent's report will probably be the basis for asking congress to make adequate provisions for schools. It is found that the appropriation made by congress recently for the improvement of tribal schools will be of little advantage to white children, and throughout the country districts a general system of schools is badly needed.

DOGS ARE VALUABLE

Canine Population of Garfield Assessed at Twice That of Sheep

ENID: County Attorney Danley has filed his annual statement of assessment with the territorial auditor, which shows curious conditions. According to the statement filed, the dogs of Garfield county are worth almost six times as much as all the plate and jewelry owned in the county. The jewelry and plate assessed is valued at \$129, while the dogs are valued at \$813. The value of the canine property is also more by four times than all the typewriting machines, and twice as much as the sheep owned in the county.

The assessed value of all property, not including the railroads, telephones, telegraphs, etc., is \$4,046,163, against \$3,790,697 for 1903. In the city of Enid the property is assessed at \$811,287, an increase of \$71,199 over 1903.